

Happy Holidays



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Monday, December 10, 2012

Breaking Ranks



Cracks among Republicans on higher tax rates

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., speaks to supporters in Nashville, Tenn. Senate Republicans would probably agree to increased tax rates on the wealthiest Americans if it meant getting a chance to reform massive government entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security, Corker said Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012.

(AP Photo/Mark Zaleski)

STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and Republican House Speaker John Boehner met at the White House to discuss the ongoing negotiations to avert the impending “fiscal

cliff,” as a growing number of Republicans in Congress appear to be moving toward acceptance of Obama’s demand that tax rates go up on the wealthy.

Sunday’s meeting was the first between just the two leaders since Election Day, Nov. 6. Spokes-

men for both Obama and Boehner said they agreed to not release details of the conversation, but emphasize that the lines of communication remain open.

Continued on Page 3



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AROUND THE WORLD

Saudis: cyber-attacks organized

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A Saudi official says the cyber-attacks that hit the country's oil giant Aramco and Qatari natural gas producer RasGas in August originated outside the kingdom. Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Mansour al-Turki said in a statement Sunday that an investigation concluded that an "organized foreign group ... was behind the attacks" and that Aramco employees were not involved. He did not name the group, or say where it was based. The cyber-attacks used a virus, known as Shamoon, which can spread through networked computers and ultimately wipes out files by overwriting them. Aramco has said production wasn't affected. □

2 die in bus torching in Sao Paulo

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's official Agencia Brasil news agency says two people died when the bus they were riding was torched. The report says a group of angry people attacked the bus with sticks and stones as it made its arrival at its final destination, a park in northern Sao Paulo, just as the sun rose early Sunday morning. The angry group then threw flammable materials into the bus before fleeing. Neither of the two passengers who died in the blaze has been identified. The incident took place amid a monthslong wave of violence in Sao Paulo that has seen a spike in the number of homicides and buses frequently being torched. □

McCain: US committed to Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — U.S. Sen. John McCain says Washington is committed to keeping its Persian Gulf naval hub in Bahrain despite an uprising that has wracked the kingdom. McCain says the U.S. has "too much invested" in Bahrain to consider shifting the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet to another country. The 5th Fleet is the Pentagon's main counterweight to Iran's expanding military presence in the Gulf. Washington has been pushed into a difficult position by Bahrain's 22-month unrest. It backs Bahrain's Sunni monarchy, but U.S. officials have grown increasingly uneasy over crackdowns against Bahrain's Shiite majority, which is seeking a greater political voice. □

Greece: buyback going 'very well'

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's prime minister says the bond buyback scheme aimed at lessening the crisis-hit country's debt load is "going very well" and that he will have definite results Monday or Tuesday, according to state TV NET. Antonis Samaras visited Munich, where he had talks with Bavarian governor Horst Seehofer. FM Yanis Stournaras has also made the trip Sunday. The government had initially said an announcement would be made over the weekend. The government has said it will spend about €10 billion (\$13 billion) in European funds on the buyback. The bond buyback, along with a tax bill to be introduced Tuesday, will clear the way for the release of €34 billion (\$44 billion) in rescue loans. □

Iran version of YouTube launched

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran says it has launched a video-sharing website in the latest move to create government-sanctioned alternatives to Internet powerhouses such as YouTube. The Web page of Iranian state TV says the new site — Mehr, or affection in Farsi — seeks to promote Iranian and Islamic culture and artists. It's unclear, however, how heavily the site, www.mehr.ir, will be monitored or censored. Western websites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are blocked by Iranian officials. Iran also says it is seeking to create its own Internet universe scrubbed of Western content, but experts in cyber-technology question whether any country can completely break away from it. □

Facing new battle with cancer, Chavez designates a successor

IAN JAMES

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was heading back to Cuba on Sunday for a third cancer surgery after naming his vice president as his choice to lead the country if the illness cuts short his presidency. Chavez's Saturday night announcement cast a shadow of uncertainty over the country, and his supporters poured into city plazas across the nation to pray for his recovery from what appears to be an aggressive type of cancer.

ment so far, they doubt the cancer can be cured.

Chavez said he hasn't given up.

"With the grace of God, we'll come out victorious," said Chavez, who held up a crucifix and kissed it during his Saturday night appearance.

The 58-year-old president is still scheduled to be sworn in for a new six-year term Jan. 10. He has been in office for nearly 14 years, since 1999.

"There are risks. Who can deny it?" Chavez said, seated at the presidential palace beside Maduro

duties during his temporary absence, as the constitution specifies. Opposition lawmaker Julio Borges criticized the incomplete information that has been released about Chavez's cancer, saying: "Venezuela has a right to know the truth."

Throughout his treatment, Chavez has kept secret various details about his illness, including the precise location of the tumors and the type of cancer. He has said he travels to Cuba for treatment because his cancer was diagnosed by doctors there.



Venezuelan residents in Cuba participate in a demonstration in support of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez in front of the embassy of Venezuela in Havana, Cuba, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012. Chavez is to return to Cuba Sunday for another surgery in his battle against cancer, which has led him to speak publicly of a successor for the first time. Chavez said Saturday that if there are "circumstances that prevent me from exercising the presidency further" Vice-President Nicolas Maduro should replace him for the remainder of his term.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

Some wiped tears, while others held photos of him and chanted in unison: "Ooh-Ah! Chavez isn't going away!"

Chavez acknowledged the seriousness of his health situation in a televised address, saying for the first time that if he suffers complications Vice President Nicolas Maduro should be elected as Venezuela's leader to continue his socialist movement.

Several outside medical experts said that based on Chavez's account of his condition and his treat-

and other aides. "In any circumstance, we should guarantee the advance of the Bolivarian Revolution." Chavez, who won reelection on Oct. 7, said he would undergo surgery in Havana in the coming days. Lawmakers on Sunday unanimously agreed to grant him permission to leave the country for the operation.

During a televised session, opposition lawmakers in the National Assembly agreed to Chavez's request and also said that Maduro should take on his

Some of the pro-Chavez lawmakers cried and their voices cracked with emotion as they praised him and wished him a full recovery. "Onward, commander!" they chanted in unison. "You are invincible," said Maria Leon, a pro-Chavez congresswoman, expressing confidence he would be back for his inauguration to start a new term. National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello said there are no plans at this time for Chavez to cede power, even temporarily, as president. □

Cracks among Republicans on higher tax rates

Continued from front

The meeting comes as the White House and Congress try to break an impasse over finding a way to avert the so-called "fiscal cliff," a combination of automatic tax increases and spending cuts scheduled to kick in at the beginning of next year. Obama met in November with Boehner, as well as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. The president spoke separately by telephone with Reid and in person with Pelosi on Friday. Obama has been pushing higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans as one way to reduce the deficit — a position Boehner and other House Republicans have been steadfastly against. Republicans are demanding steeper cuts in costly entitlement programs like government health insurance and pension payments for older Americans.

One Republican senator said Sunday that Senate Republicans would probably agree to higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans if it meant getting a chance to overhaul entitlement programs. Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker said on Fox television Sunday that he speaks for many Republicans who realize that Obama holds the stronger hand on increasing taxes on the wealthy in the ongoing debate about how to avoid sending the U.S. economy over the so-called "fiscal cliff." Many economists and the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office predict that failure to solve the political standoff would push the fragile American economy back into recession. The fiscal cliff faces the country because tax rate cuts that were put in place during the former President George W. Bush administration expire at the end of the year. Obama cam-



President Barack Obama, accompanied by House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, speaking to reporters in Washington. Obama and Boehner met at the White House to discuss the ongoing negotiations to avert the impending "fiscal cliff," as a growing number of Republicans in Congress appear to be moving toward acceptance of Obama's demand that tax rates go up on the wealthy.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

paign during his successful run for a second term on keeping the cuts in place for all but the top two percent of American earners. Republicans want to find additional government income by cutting back on tax loopholes and deductions while leaving the tax rates unchanged. The pending across-the-board reductions in gov-

ernment spending, impacting everything from social programs to the military, were put in place last year as an incentive to both parties to find spending reductions to begin cutting government red ink. That legislation grew out of the two parties' inability in 2011 to agree to a tax and spending program that would have taken a big bite out

of the deficit. Compounding the likely devastating effects of failure to agree on a means of avoiding the fiscal cliff will be the coincidental expiration of extended government benefits for the long-term unemployed. The remarks by Corker, who is building a reputation as a pragmatic deal maker among fiscally conservative Republicans, and support among a growing number of colleagues in Congress put fresh pressure on Boehner and others in the Republican caucus to rethink their long-held assertion that even the very rich shouldn't see their rates go up next year. Republican leaders have argued that the revenue gained by hiking the top two tax rates would do little to reduce the government budget deficit and would only harm job creation. But Corker says insisting on that red line — especially since Obama won re-election after campaigning on raising tax rates on the wealthy — might not be wise. □

Plane believed to be singer's found in Mexico

GALIA GARCIA-PALAFIX
PORFIRIO IBARRA
Associated Press
MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)

— The wreckage of a small plane believed to be carrying Mexican-American singing superstar Jenni Rivera was found in northern Mexico on Sunday and there are no apparent survivors, authorities said. Transportation and Communications Minister Gerardo Ruiz Esparza said that "everything points toward" it being the U.S.-registered Learjet 25 carrying Rivera and six other people from Monterrey en route to Toluca, Mexico. The plane had

gone missing after takeoff early Sunday. "There is nothing recognizable, neither material nor human" in the wreckage," Ruiz Esparza told the Televisa network. Authorities had not confirmed that Rivera was among the dead. Jorge Domene, spokesman for Nuevo Leon's government, said the plane left Monterrey about 3:30 a.m. after Rivera gave a concert there and aviation authorities lost contact with the craft about 10 minutes later. It had been scheduled to arrive in Toluca, outside Mexico City, about an hour later. □

Same-sex couples in Washington taking wedding vows

RACHEL LA CORTE

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Scores of same-sex couples crowded Seattle City Hall for a day of wedding ceremonies on Sunday, the first day they could marry after Washington state's voter-approved gay marriage law took effect.

Last month, Washington, Maine and Maryland became the first states to pass same-sex marriage by popular vote. They joined six other states — New York, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont — and the District of Columbia that had already enacted laws or issued court rulings permitting same-sex marriage.

While numerous weddings were taking place across Washington state, both private and public, the city hall weddings were the largest public event, with about 140 couples taking

part. The city set up five separate chapels to accommodate the revelers. Starting at 10 a.m. (1800 GMT), cheers and applause regularly broke out as another couple's marriage became official. Weddings at city hall were to continue through 5 p.m. (2200 GMT). After couples married, they exited city hall, greeted

by a steady rain and by dozens of supporters who cheered them with shouts of "congratulations" and flowers as they descended a large staircase down to the street.

"I don't even have words for this," said Caren Goldberg of Seattle, who married her partner of seven years, Casey Evans. "It

just makes me really proud of my city."

Mayor Mike McGinn, who greeted couples at they arrived, called it a "great day, a joyous day."

"It's really wonderful," he said. "A new civil right is going to be recognized in this great civil institution."

Keith Bacon and Corianton Hale of Seattle, who celebrated their six-year anniversary the night before, hugged and kissed to loud cheers and camera flashes as they took their vows before one of the 16 local judges who volunteered to officiate the weddings on Sunday.

"We're totally thrilled," Bacon said. The couple had done a commitment ceremony in August but said this day was particularly special.

"We had looked at this as maybe a day we would sign a piece of paper and seal the deal, and instead

we're having this huge party being thrown in our honor," Bacon said. "It's just mind blowing."

Nancy Monahan, 57, a retired petty officer with the Coast Guard, waited outside before the weddings began with her partner of 14 years, Deb Needham, 48.

Monahan was wearing her uniform, and Needham was wearing an ivory dress and jacket and matching hat.

They said they wanted to join the large wedding event at city hall because of the significance of the day.

"It's not very private, but very historic," Needham said, to which Monahan added, "And very awesome."

Some courthouses, including in King and Thurston Counties, opened right at midnight, and started marrying couples. □



Cindy Ogasawara stands with other well-wishers greeting newly married couples as they depart Seattle City Hall, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, in Seattle.

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)



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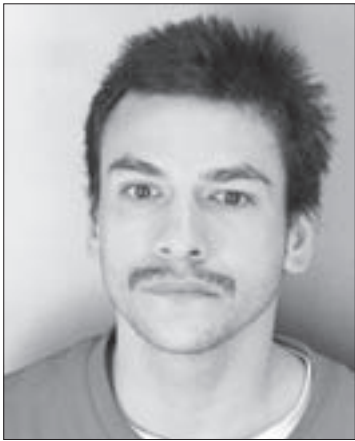
Associated Press

PORTERVILLE, Calif. (AP) —

A man suspected of fatally shooting three people and wounding three children, including his two daughters, died Sunday from his injuries in a police shootout, authorities said.

Hector Celaya, 31, died several hours after he was wounded during gunfire with Tulare County sheriff's deputies as he tried to flee in a vehicle. His death was confirmed by sheriff's Sgt. Chris Douglass, who did not release details.

Authorities apprehended him early Sunday, about six hours after deputies were called to a trailer on the Tule Indian Reservation on Saturday night. Inside, they found the bodies of a man and a woman; the body of another man was nearby. Deputies also discovered



Authorities say that Hector Celaya, 31, is a suspect in shootings in which three people died and four others, including two young girls, were wounded, Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012. (AP Photo)

a wounded young boy, whose condition and age were not known.

Officials said Celaya shot his two daughters, ages 5 and 8, who were found with him in the vehicle when he was apprehended. One girl suffered life-threatening

injuries, while the other girl was less seriously hurt.

A motive for the attacks was not immediately known. The boy who was wounded is believed to be about 7, said Shelby Charley Jr., an engineer and supervisor with the Tule River Reservation Fire Department. "This is a once in a lifetime kind of deal," Charley said of the call. "It's one of those calls you could go your whole career and not walk into. This is one of those calls that will stick with you for the rest of your life." The winding roads out of the reservation delayed medical help for the boy, Charley said. Thick fog in the area prevented a medical helicopter from responding, Charley said.

At the scene of the shooting, police tape stretched out across the driveway to three modular homes built on a hillside that appeared to be a family compound. The homes are in a remote area scattered with oak trees and rock outcroppings. Two people approached on a dirt road leading to the homes acknowledged to the Associated Press that they were related to the suspect, but declined to comment. Deputies found Celaya by tracking his cellphone, and pulled him over in a rural area outside the tiny community of Lindsay, about 20 miles from the reservation. Celaya opened fire, prompting deputies to return fire, Douglass said. □

Obama praises special ops forces after rescue

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A member of a U.S. special operations team was killed during a weekend rescue mission in Afghanistan that freed an American doctor abducted by the Taliban outside of Kabul five days ago. President Barack Obama praised the special forces on Sunday, saying the mission was characteristic of U.S. troops' "extraordinary courage, skill and patriotism." A spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan said Dr. Dilip Joseph of Colorado Springs, Colo., was rescued early Sunday, local time, in eastern Afghanistan. Joseph, a medical adviser for Colorado Springs-based Morning Star Development, was rescued after intelligence showed he was in imminent danger

of injury or possible death, according to the U.S. military. The U.S. did not immediately identify the special operator killed in the mission. "He gave his life for his fellow Americans, and he and his teammates remind us once more of the selfless service that allows our nation to stay strong, safe and free," Obama said in a statement. In a separate statement Sunday, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said, "In this fallen hero, and all of our special operators, Americans see the highest ideals of citizenship, sacrifice and service upheld." Morning Star, a relief group that helps rebuild communities in Afghanistan, said in a statement that Joseph was uninjured and would probably return home in a few days. □

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The great divide, now in the toy aisle

GINIA BELLAFANTE

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NEW YORK — This year, at the 109th Annual American International Toy Fair, held at the Javits Convention Center as one of the culture's most convincing cases for childlessness, a former investment banker named Jill Todd displayed "The Tuneables," an interactive DVD series she had created through her company, the Music Intelligence Project. The daughter of two musicologists, Todd developed the project in conjunction with her parents as an instructional system in melody, rhythm and tone — the fundamentals of music leveraged as a means to enhance cognitive function. Nearby, but easily obscured by the acres of primary-color plastic, was a booth for a company called Fat Brain Toys, whose games and puzzles in logic and sequencing came with an impressive lineage, some of them designed by the celebrated inventor Ivan Moscovich, a Holocaust survivor. Walking into one of the three branches of Toys R Us now in the Bronx, you would find nothing from either of these ventures. Just as we are unlikely to unearth dilled artisanal long beans from the farms of northern Vermont,

we are unlikely to find these sorts of diversions — small-batch toys aimed at the parent for whom it is never too early to begin LSAT drills — in large retail chains. Instead, they are the provenance of independent toy stores that maintain a presence almost exclusively in the city's most affluent neighborhoods. In the 1970s, the receipt of a Fisher



A young boy watches people buy video games at a Toys R Us in New York. Parents who can afford to shop only at mass-market retailers won't find as many of the kinds of playthings that are meant to enhance cognitive function, like games of logic or sequence. (Marcus Yam/The New York Times)

Price farm set on Christmas Day would have conferred nothing terribly distinctive about class, having come from a department store and having appeared just as probably under the tree of a white-shoe lawyer as it would have under the tree of a brick layer. But toys, like lettuces or chocolate,

have long since become another manifestation of difference. (And this is even before we arrive at an absurdity like the \$1,499.99 Etch-a-Sketch encased in Swarovski crystals, currently at FAO Schwarz, something that would appear to have been created as an engagement offering for an 8-year-old Trump to give a 6â(euro) 0-year-old Kar-

dashian.) What finds its way off the shelves of the chains is not what disappears from stores like Boomerang in TriBeCa, or Mary Arnold, the 81-year-old toy store on the Upper East Side. At those stores, the best-selling product of recent years has been something called Magna-Tiles, geometrically

shaped magnetic tiles that allow children to imaginatively build virtually anything but what, in my experience, often turns out looking like the Crystal Cathedral in Southern California. Last Christmas, a flood near the factory where the tiles are made in Asia caused a shortage and a rise in price, with boxes of tiles, which usually retail for roughly \$1 a tile, going for hundreds of dollars on eBay. By Dec. 12 last year, Ezra Ishayik, the owner of Mary Arnold, told me, he'd sold \$20,000 worth of tiles and had run out. Magna-Tiles are not sold at Toys R Us. Uninterested in sharing company with licensed products rendered in offensive colors, manufacturers like these resist the taint of the mass market, selling instead in museum gift shops and small, aesthetically palatable shops that draw from a narrow slice of our demographics. At the same time, as Sean McGowan, a toy industry analyst at the investment bank Needham & Co. explained it, the market for educational toys is never quite as big as we would like it to be. While a company like Toys R Us carries educational toys, over time its commitment to promoting them has eroded, he said. □

Holiday boxes on stoops bring theft reports

EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS

© 2012 New York Times

A pair of brown leather boots was snatched last week from a doorstep in the suburbs of Chicago. A computer disappeared from a front porch in Fort Worth, Texas, last month, and an iPad case was stolen outside a Long Island, N.Y., home this week.

As the peak of the holiday gift-buying season approaches and more people are ordering online, here is the downside: Grinch-like bandits are swiping the deliveries from doorsteps when families are not home. Some thieves follow UPS and FedEx trucks along their routes and nab the gifts, while others simply drive through residential neighborhoods looking for packages.

In River Forest, Ill., where the police arrested two young men last week, accusing them of stealing deliveries from homes, plainclothes police officers trail UPS trucks to ferret out thieves who might be following them, Cmdr. Jim O'Shea said.

"This is common at this time of year," O'Shea said. "We're trying to take a proactive approach to curtail this." □



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Cowboys player's attorney: \$500K bond excessive

SCHUYLER DIXON

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Dallas Cowboys defensive lineman Josh Brent remained in custody Sunday on \$500,000 bond, one day after being charged with intoxication manslaughter after what police said was a drunken-driving accident that killed close friend and teammate Jerry Brown. Brent's attorney called the bond amount excessive and beyond what the team had authorized him to post. George Milner said he was working to reduce the bond, but was doubtful his client would be released from the Irving jail until Monday. Milner also said he was trying to get the Cowboys to authorize payment of a higher bond amount. "I'd say the bond is 16 times higher than it would have been for anybody that doesn't play for the Dallas Cowboys," Milner said. Irving police said Brent was speeding in the Dallas suburb when the vehicle he was driving hit a curb and flipped about 2:20 a.m. Saturday. The 25-year-old

Brown was found unresponsive at the scene and was pronounced dead at a hospital. Brent was arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated, and the charge was upgraded after Brown died. The manslaughter charge is a second-degree felony punishable by two to 20 years in prison. Brown's grandmother, Theresa Clark of St. Louis, told The Associated Press on Sunday that Brown and Brent grew close while they were teammates at the University of Illinois from 2007 to 2009. "I'm quite sure that Jerry thought the world of him and respected that young man," Clark said. She remembered her eldest grandchild — one of 20 — as a man who would stop at nothing to realize his dream of becoming a professional football player. "He lived for football. He loved it with all of his heart," she said, noting that Brown built a foundation of faith, hard work and discipline for his younger cousins to

follow.

"They praised him," she said. "They were all really upset and crying" when they found out about his death.

Brown's mother, Stacey Jackson of Champaign, Illinois, told the AP that Brown was an expectant father. "I'm very excited and anxious to meet my granddaugh-

ter," she said. "She will be here in 2 more months. She is going to be well loved. "I have scrapbooks and everything to show her what type of father she had. My youngest son, Jeremiah, will be there to push her on to ensure that she can be the best woman that she can be." The accident happened hours before Brent was to be on a team flight to Cincinnati, where the Cowboys played the Bengals on Sunday. Before the game, the Bengals held a moment of silence before the national anthem. Most Cowboys bowed their heads, and Dallas quarterback Tony Romo and several other players had their hands over their hearts. □



Tire skid marks are seen leaving the road as news cameraman film the area where a single vehicle accident involving Dallas Cowboys player Josh Brent occurred Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, in Irving, Texas. Brent is facing an intoxication manslaughter charge after a one-vehicle accident that killed linebacker Jerry Brown, a member of the team's practice squad.

(AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

US man pleads guilty to smuggling birds in pants

MIAMI (AP) — A Miami man faces up to 20 years in prison for allegedly trying to smuggle birds from Cuba into the United States in his pants. The U.S. Attorney's office says Alberto Diaz Gonzalez pleaded guilty Thursday to attempting to import undeclared wildlife from the Caribbean island. He is scheduled to be sentenced in February. Diaz's federal public defender did not immediately

respond to a request for comment Sunday. Diaz returned to Miami from Havana on Oct. 20. Court documents show he told U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials in Miami that he was not carrying any wildlife. But authorities say when officers searched Diaz, they found 16 Cuban bullfinches hidden in his pants. They say Diaz admitted the birds were from Cuba and that he planned to sell them. □



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EU leaders pick up Nobel Peace Prize

BJOERN H. AMLAND
Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — European Union leaders on Sunday hailed the achievements of the 27-nation bloc, but acknowledged they need more integration and authority to solve problems, including its worst financial crisis, as they arrived in Norway to pick up this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Conceding that the EU lacked sufficient powers to stop the devastating 1992-95 Bosnia war, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said that the absence of such authority at the time is "one of the most powerful arguments for a stronger European Union."

Barroso spoke to reporters with EU Council President Herman Van Rompuy and the president of the EU Parliament, Martin Schulz, in Oslo, where the three leaders were to receive this year's award, granted to the European Union for fostering peace on a continent ravaged by war. Nobel committee chairman Thorbjørn Jagland will present the prize, worth \$1.2 million, at a ceremony in Oslo City Hall, followed by a banquet at the Grand Hotel, against a backdrop of demonstrations in this EU-skeptic country that has twice rejected joining the union.

About 20 European government leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, will be joining the ceremonies. They will be celebrating far away from the EU's financial woes in a prosperous, oil-rich nation of 5 million on the outskirts of Europe that voted in 1972 and 1994 in referendums to stay out of the union.

The decision to award the prize to the EU has sparked harsh criticism, including from three peace laureates —

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mairead Maguire of Northern Ireland and Adolfo Perez Esquivel from Argentina — who have demanded the prize money not be paid out this year. They say the bloc contradicts the values associated with the prize because it relies on military force to ensure security. The leader of Britain's Independence Party, Nigel Farage, in a statement described re-

ing the Nobel committee of being "too close to the power" elite. Dimitris Kodelas, a Greek lawmaker from the main opposition Radical Left party, or Syriza, said a humanitarian crisis in his country and EU policies could cause major rifts in Europe. He thought it was a joke when he heard the peace prize was awarded to the EU. "It challenges even our logic and it is also insulting," he said.

The EU is being granted the



During a press conference at the Norwegian Nobel Institute, with left-right: Secretary of the Norwegian Nobel Committee Geir Lundestad, President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz and Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee Torbjørn Jagland, as they answer questions at the Nobel Institute in Oslo, Sunday Dec. 9, 2012. This year's award goes to the European Union for fostering peace on a continent ravaged by war and the Peace Prize award will be presented Monday.

(AP Photo / Vegard Grott, NTB scanpix)

warding the EU as "a ridiculous act which blows the reputation of the Nobel prize committee to smithereens." Hundreds of people demonstrated against this year's prize winners in a peaceful torch-lit protest that meandered through the dark city streets to Parliament, including Tomas Magnusson from the International Peace Bureau, the 1910 prize winner. "This is totally against the idea of Alfred Nobel who wanted disarmament," he said, accus-

prize as it grapples with a debt crisis that has stirred deep tensions between north and south, caused soaring unemployment and sent hundreds of thousands into the streets to protest austerity measures. It is also threatening the euro — the common currency used by 17 of its members — and even the structure of the union itself, and is fuelling extremist movements such as Golden Dawn in Greece, which opponents brand as neo-Nazi. □

Romanian exit polls: center-left government wins vote

ALISON MUTLER
Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)

— Romania's center-left government won a clear victory in Sunday's parliamentary elections, according to exit polls. The result could inflame the personal rivalry between the nation's top two officials and bring yet more political upheaval.

The prime minister's governing alliance had about 57 percent of seats in the 452-seat legislature, according to a poll published after elections on national television TVR.

Coming in second was a center-right group, allied to President Traian Basescu, which polled over 18 percent. A populist party headed by a media tycoon won about 13 per-

cent, according to the poll. First results are expected Monday.

Basescu and Ponta are bitter rivals after the government tried to remove Basescu from office in an impeachment vote in July, a bid that failed as too few people voted to make the election valid.

Basescu has indicated he won't appoint the 40-year-old Ponta again, calling him a "compulsive liar" and saying he plagiarized his doctoral thesis. Ponta says Basescu is a divisive figure who overstepped his role as president by meddling in government business.

"We won a clear majority, a majority recognized by our adversaries who have to accept the rules of democracy," Ponta said after the vote. □

Italy awaits market reaction to Prem. Monti's abrupt exit

FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy and the rest of Europe on Sunday anxiously awaited the reaction of financial markets to Premier Mario Monti's surprise decision to resign and set the stage for an early vote, as speculation abounded over whether he might dive into politics and challenge Silvio Berlusconi in the election.

Monti has been widely credited with restoring faith in the country's capacity to survive the eurozone debt crisis since he took over the helm of a non-elected "technocrat" government. But he told the Italian president Saturday it was impossible to continue to lead after Berlusconi's party, Parliament's largest, dropped

its support and blamed his austerity measure for Italy's staying mired in recession.

"We'll see what the markets will do," President Giorgio Napolitano told reporters asking if he was worried about the repercussions of the political crisis, including how it would affect its credibility and financial ratings.

It was Napolitano who appointed Monti, an internationally respected economist, last year to replace Berlusconi, the three-time premier whose resistance to potentially unpopular austerity measures panicked financial markets and helped set Italy tottering toward a Greece-style debt crisis.

Monti told Napolitano he would step down as soon as Parliament passes a budget bill, likely within two weeks, setting the stage for elections as soon as February. □

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Hamas leader delivers defiant anniversary speech

Steven Erlanger

© 2012 New York Times

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip –

Khaled Meshal, the political leader of Hamas, gave a defiant speech on Saturday, vowing to build an Islamic Palestinian state on all the land of Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Speaking before tens of thousands of supporters to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of Hamas, Meshal said the Jewish state would be wiped away through "resistance," or military action. "The state will come from resistance, not negotiation," he said. "Liberation first, then statehood."

His voice rising to a shout, Meshal said: "Palestine is ours from the river to the sea and from the south to the north. There will be no concession on any inch of the land." He vowed that all Palestinian refugees and their descendants would one day return to their original homes in what is now Israel.

"We will never recognize the legitimacy of the Israeli occupation, and

said. "We will free Jerusalem inch by inch, stone by stone. Israel has no right to

that they would be freed using the same methods that have worked in the

like Gilad Shalit, who was released last year in a prisoner exchange after five years as a hostage.

The anniversary of Hamas' founding is Dec. 14, but the organization moved the celebration forward to honor the first uprising against Israel. Meshal, on his first visit to Gaza after 45 years of exile, having fled a West Bank village at 11 with his family during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, was in a joyous but not conciliatory mood. He promised Palestinian unity, but only on the basis of Hamas' principles, which would mean a subordinate role for Fatah, the main Palestinian faction in the West Bank. He called the United Nations General Assembly's vote granting Palestinians enhanced status as a nonmember observer state – engineered by President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, which governs the West Bank – "a small step but a good one." □



Khaled Mashaal, center, the head of the political bureau of Hamas, and Gaza Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, to Mashaal's left, wave to the crowd during a rally marking the 25th anniversary of Hamas, in Gaza City. Mashaal gave a defiant speech at the rally, vowing to build an Islamic Palestinian state on all the land of Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

(Wissam Nassar/The New York Times)

therefore there is no legitimacy for Israel, no matter how long it will take," he

be in Jerusalem." He also promised Palestinian prisoners held in Israel

past – the kidnapping of Israelis and Israeli soldiers,

Morsi fails to quell Egypt unrest

David D. Kirkpatrick

© 2012 New York Times

CAIRO – Crowds of protesters marched on the presidential palace in Cairo on Sunday, registering fresh anger against President Mohammed Morsi's plan to go ahead with a referendum on an Islamist-backed draft constitution.

With efforts to quell the tensions flagging, Morsi on Sunday issued an order placing security over government institutions in the hands of the military until after the results of Saturday's referendum, The Associated Press

reported. The order, which will take effect on Monday, also grants soldiers the right to arrest civilians. In a concession to the opposition, Morsi rescinded on Saturday most of a sweeping Nov. 22 decree that temporarily elevated his decisions above judicial review and that had put tens of thousands of protesters into the streets calling for his downfall. He also offered a convoluted arrangement for the factions to negotiate constitutional amendments this week that would be add-

ed to the charter after the vote.

But, Morsi did not budge on a critical demand: that he postpone the referendum set for Saturday to allow a thorough overhaul of the proposed charter, which liberal groups say has inadequate protection of individual rights and provisions that could someday give Muslim religious authorities new influence. His decision Sunday to deploy the military, which has been widely interpreted as imposing martial law, seemed to indicate his resolve. □

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Challenger: Merkel isolating Germany in Europe

GEIR MOULSON
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-left challenger accused the German leader of isolating the country in Europe as he sought Sunday to kick-start his campaign for next year's elections, pledging to make social policy and promises of tougher financial regulation central issues.

Former Finance Minister Peer Steinbrueck's Social Democrats rallied around him after a difficult start to his quest to unseat Merkel. About 93 percent of delegates at a special party convention endorsed the 65-year-old Steinbrueck, who ran unopposed, as her challenger in parliamentary elections expected in September.

Merkel's conservatives lead polls, helped by the chancellor's personal popularity — itself bolstered by her hard-nosed approach to Europe's debt crisis. But the outcome remains far from certain, with surveys showing a majority neither for her center-right coalition nor for Steinbrueck's hoped-for alliance with the Green party.

The center-left parties have

criticized Merkel for what they decry as a too-little, too-late response to the eurozone's debt crisis, but have supported her rescue plans in parliament. They have argued more needs to be done to foster economic growth, and lack her aversion to any kind of pooling of European coun-

vention in Hannover.

"In the eyes of our neighbors, we are acting in a pretty schoolmasterly way at the moment — a good neighbor doesn't do that," he said. "My main accusation is that Mrs. Merkel has (led) Germany into isolation in Europe."

Steinbrueck didn't go into



Peer Steinbrueck of the SPD, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's challenger for the next elections, delivers a speech during an extraordinary party convention of the German Social Democrats, SPD, in Hannover, northern Germany, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012.
(AP Photo/dapd, Clemens Bilan)

tries' debt.

"We must show the flag and go into this election with a clear pro-European position — not fearing the resentments that exist, not fearing the position of some that 'we don't want to pay for other countries,'" Steinbrueck said in a televised speech to the party

details of European policy in a speech that hammered home his party's center-left credentials. He declared it will make the election "a face-off about social policy," with promises of a mandatory minimum wage and a quota for women in management positions, among other things. □

Australian radio chair: Station reviews policy

GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The reverberations from the death of a nurse who accepted a hoax phone call about the ill Duchess of Cambridge spread through two countries Sunday, as Australian authorities said London police had contacted them about a possible investigation. The Australian radio station behind the call also announced an immediate review of its broadcast practices after the debacle, which began with a prank call made Tuesday to the hospital where the former Kate Middleton was being treated for acute morning sickness. Two radio DJs managed to impersonate Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles and received confidential information about the Duchess's medical condition, which was broadcast on-air. The controversial prank took a dark twist three days later with the death of nurse Jacintha Saldanha, a 46-year-old mother of two, who was duped by the DJs despite their Australian accents. The death has sparked an angry backlash against the

DJs, who have been taken off the air indefinitely. After an emergency meeting Sunday, Max Moore-Wilton, the chairman of parent company Southern Cross Austereo, which owns the 2DayFM radio station, said in a letter to the hospital's chairman that the company will cooperate with any investigation.

"It is too early to know the full details leading to this tragic event and we are anxious to review the results of any investigation that may be made available to us or made public," he wrote. "I can assure you we are taking immediate action and reviewing the broadcast and processes involved." "As we have said in our own statements on the matter, the outcome was unforeseeable and very regrettable," he wrote. Australian police Sunday confirmed they had been contacted by London police and said they would cooperate. Police have not yet determined Saldanha's cause of death, but people from London to Sydney have been making the assumption she died because of stress from the call. □

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Ghana's Dramani Mahama declared election winner

FRANCIS KOKUTSE

LAURA BURKE

Associated Press

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) —

President John Dramani Mahama was declared the winner Sunday of Ghana's recent presidential election, according to provisional results, despite widespread technical glitches with the machines used to identify voters, and over the protest of the country's opposition, which alleges vote-rigging. Armored tanks surrounded Ghana's electoral commission and police barricaded the road around the electoral offices as the election body's chairman Kwadwo Afari-Gyan announced that Mahama had polled 5.5 million votes, or 50.7 percent. Opposition leader Nana Akufo-Addo, who lost the 2008 election by less than 1 percent, came in second with 5.2 million votes, or 47.7 percent, Afari-Gyan said. Voter turnout was high, with

more than 80 percent of the roughly 14 million registered voters casting ballots in Friday's presidential and parliamentary election.



Ghana President John Dramani Mahama, center right, speaks with election observers and ruling party members following a press conference at the presidential residence in Accra, Ghana, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012. (AP Photo/Christian Thompson)

Ghana has one of the longest traditions of democracy in this troubled corner of Africa, but Friday's election was fraught, after biometric machines used to identify voters through their fingerprints failed to work

in scores of polling stations, forcing officials to extend voting into a second day. The opposition accuses the ruling party of using

ent vote in the country's history. No other country in the region has had as many free and fair votes. The nation of 25 million is on tenterhooks, however, with many saying that its history

of democratic progress can easily be derailed, just as it was in nearby Mali, a nation that was also considered a model democracy until a coup d'etat by junior officers this spring. □



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Chinese police accuse monk of inciting self-immolations

BEIJING (AP) — Police detained a monk and his nephew in China's Sichuan province and accused them of instigating the self-immolations of eight ethnic Tibetans on the instructions of the Dalai Lama and his followers, state media said Sunday.

The report in the official Xinhua News Agency did not detail what evidence police had of the exiled Buddhist spiritual leader's involvement — which was denied by the self-declared Tibetan government-in-exile in northern India.

The report cited a police statement as saying that confessions and an investigation showed that the detained monk, Lorang Kon-

chok, 40, from Kirti Monastery in Sichuan's Aba county, kept in frequent contact with supporters of the Dalai Lama overseas and had recruited eight volunteers for self-immolations since 2009, telling them they would be "heroes." Three of the protesters died, the report said. It said Lorang Konchok collected photos and personal information of volunteers who agreed to go ahead with the protests.

"He also promised to spread their 'deeds' abroad so they and their families would be acknowledged and honored," the police statement said, according to Xinhua.

The monk's nephew, Lorang Tsering, 31, helped

recruit volunteers and also was arrested, the report said. Activists say more than 90 ethnic Tibetans have set themselves on fire since 2009 in dramatic protests against authoritarian Chinese rule. Chinese officials have called the protests "cruel and inhuman" and sought to blame them on the Dalai Lama and other instigators, while activists call them home-grown expressions of desperation over oppression. The Dalai Lama has said he opposes all violence. The Tibetan government-in-exile, based in Dharmasala, India, said it "strongly denied" any accusations of involvement by its representatives or the Dalai Lama. □

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North Korea considers delaying rocket launch

HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea may postpone the controversial launch of a long-range rocket that had been slated for liftoff as early as this week, state media said Sunday, as international pressure on Pyongyang to cancel the provocative move intensified.

Scientists have been pushing forward with final preparations for the launch from a west coast site, slated to take place as early as Monday, but are considering "readjusting" the timing, an unidentified spokesman for the Korean Committee for Space Technology told North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency. It was unclear whether diplomatic intervention or technical glitches were behind the delay. A brief KCNA dispatch said scientists and technicians were discussing whether to set new launch dates but did not elaborate.

Word of a possible delay comes just days after satel-



A cartoon caricaturing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's rocket launch plans is displayed on a street in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012. North Korea may postpone the controversial launch of a long-range rocket that had been slated for liftoff as early as this week, state media said Sunday, as international pressure on Pyongyang to cancel the provocative move intensified. The words at top left read "The young pig (Kim Jong Un) playing with fire."

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

lite photos indicated that snow may have slowed launch preparations, and as officials in Washington, Seoul, Tokyo, Moscow and

elsewhere urged North Korea to cancel a liftoff widely seen as a violation of bans against missile activity. Commercial satellite imag-

ery taken by GeoEye on Dec. 4 and shared Friday with The Associated Press by the 38 North and North Korea Tech websites showed the Sohae site northwest of Pyongyang covered with snow. The road from the main assembly building to the launch pad showed no fresh tracks, indicating that the snowfall may have stalled the preparations. However, analysts believed rocket preparations would have been completed on time for liftoff as early as Monday. North Korea announced earlier this month that it would launch a three-stage rocket mounted with a satellite from its Sohae station southeast of Sinuiju sometime between Dec. 10 and Dec. 22. Pyongyang calls it a peaceful bid to send an observational satellite into space, its second attempt this year. The launch announcement

captured global headlines because of its timing: South Korea and Japan hold key elections this month, President Barack Obama begins his second term next month and China has just formed a new leadership. North Koreans also have begun a mourning period for late leader Kim Jong Il, who died on Dec. 17, 2011. Last week, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Washington was "deeply concerned" about the launch, and urged foreign ministers from NATO and Russia to demand that Pyongyang cancel its plans.

U.S. and others said the launch would violate U.N. Security Council resolutions banning North Korea from nuclear and missile activity because the rocket shares the same technology used for firing a long-range missile. North Korea has unveiled missiles designed to target U.S. soil and has tested two atomic bombs in recent years, but has not shown yet that it has mastered the technology for mounting a nuclear warhead to a long-range missile. Six-nation negotiations to offer North Korea much-needed aid in exchange for nuclear disarmament have been stalled since 2009. China, the North's main ally and aid provider, noted its "concern" after North Korea declared its plans. It acknowledged North Korea's right to develop its space program but said that had to be harmonized with restrictions including those set by the U.N. Security Council. In Seoul, officials at the Defense Ministry, Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Foreign Ministry said Sunday they couldn't immediately find what might be behind the possible delay. □

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Westin Resort's Superstar Associates Honored

PALM BEACH – Recently, the Brand Champions of the Month for September and October for the Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba were announced during a special holiday luncheon held in the resort's Grand Palm Beach Ballroom. Associates and management, there to show their support for the nominees representing the Heart of the House, the Front of the House, and the resort's Palm Beach Casino, attended the event. All those nominated represent Westin's core values, and were tapped

by management for their outstanding performances within their respective departments. The following winners were announced for the month of September: Front of the House—Mauvalyn Hutchinson; Heart of the House—Leandro Milla; and Palm Beach Casino—Celenia Tromp. The winners for October were: Front of the House—Virginia Bueno; Heart of the House—Marina Vasquez; and Palm Beach Casino—Andriani Moebin. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners. □



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ister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10+ years consecutive. The main reasons why they keep coming back to Aruba are the friendly people, the beaches, the beautiful weather, and the local food. The certificate was presented by Darline S. de Cuba, representing Aruba Tourism Authority. □



Beauty On The Beach

Katiuka Dominguez

She is from Caracas, Venezuela. She is on her honeymoon, and she is enjoying her first visit to the island.

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Diwali was celebrated by Indian community with big fanfare

PALM BEACH – The Indian Association of Aruba organized a cultural evening at Aruba Marriott Resort to celebrate Diwali. Diwali is like an identification for Indian Community living abroad anywhere. It is a major festival for Hindus comparable to Christmas, where they do lots of

lighting, fireworks and exchange sweets. This year's theme of the event was Bollywood Diwali Cruise with befitting decoration, food and Indian sweets. The community dressed up in nice traditional dresses and children practiced hard to present a lovely cultural program with dances and

drama show. The attached pictures show children on the stage, with ladies who coached them and the organizers of the Indian Association. The event was emceed by Aditya Gupta and Kunal Nathani. All performers and organizers were recognized by Prakash & Niti Gupta ☐



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Caribbean Speed Printers N.V. celebrate their Christmas Dinner



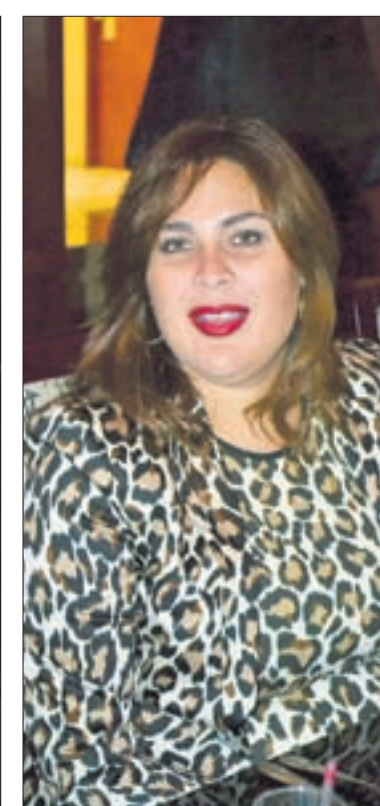
ORANJESTAD- On Saturday, in a nice and cozy environment, colleagues at the Caribbean Speed Printers, publishing house of both Aruba Today and Bon Dia Aruba, came together to celebrate their Christmas Dinner at J.H. Yee's Asian Bistro located at South Beach. The evening took place in a very nice ambience, enjoying the excellent service provided by the personnel of J.H. Yee's Asian Bistro, and their delicious plates of mandarin chicken, shrimps and tenderloin, to mention a few. Personnel at the Caribbean Speed Printers N.V. would like to thank the Chemaly family for this nice gesture enabling all to come to-



gether and enjoy a very nice evening. Staff and Personnel of Ca-

ibbean Speed Printers N.V. would like to wish the Aruban Community and her

distinguished visitors a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2013. □





Juan Manuel Marquez, from Mexico, wears the champion's belt as his fist is raised by referee Kenny Bayless after his sixth round knockout of Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, in their WBO world welterweight fight Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

GIMME 5?

TIM DAHLBERG
AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The idea of Manny Pacquiao being knocked out cold was shocking enough. The sight of him face down on the canvas, unresponsive even as bedlam broke out all around him, was positively frightening.

Mitt Romney saw it up close from his ringside seat just a few feet away. So did Pacquiao's wife, who broke down in tears and tried to get in the ring to aid her downed husband.

Juan Manuel Marquez didn't even bother to look. He was already busy celebrating the knockout of a lifetime.

This was boxing at its brutal best. Both fighters had been down, and both fighters were hurting when Marquez threw a right hand off the ropes with a second left in the sixth round that could be felt all the way in the rafters of the MGM Grand arena.

Continued on Page 20

Grieving Cowboys beat Bengals 20-19 on FG

JOE KAY

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) -- Numb. Grieving. Distracted. The Cowboys were all those things on Sunday, dealing with the death of one teammate and the tribulations of another. Winners, too, though they hardly felt like it.

Dallas.

"It's a hard, hard situation we're in," quarterback Tony Romo said. "There's no playbook for this sort of thing in life."

The Cowboys overcame a nine-point deficit in the closing minutes behind Romo, who held his hand over his heart during a mo-

their flight to Cincinnati on Saturday.

Coach Jason Garrett told his team that the best way to honor him was to play well in a game with playoff implications for both teams. One of the visitors' metal lockers at Paul Brown Stadium had a strip of white athletic tape with "53

this much other than maybe the day I was born," defensive lineman Marcus Spears said.

"With Josh's situation and Jerry being gone, you felt it."

Players couldn't keep the tragedy out of their thoughts during the game, finding their minds wander-



Dallas Cowboys kicker Dan Bailey, right, kicks a 40-yard field goal with four seconds on the clock to give the Cowboys a 20-19 win over the Cincinnati Bengals in an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, in Cincinnati.

(AP Photo/Michael Keating)

Dan Bailey kicked a 40-yard field goal as time ran out, sending the Cowboys to a 20-19 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals that ended a tough afternoon with a little bit of relief and their playoff chances enhanced.

Didn't last long, though. There will be a lot more emotional days ahead in

ment of silence to honor teammate Jerry Brown before the kickoff. The linebacker died in an auto accident early Saturday.

Defensive lineman Josh Brent, who was driving, was still jailed in Texas on Sunday, charged with intoxication manslaughter.

The Cowboys (7-6) learned about Brown's death on

JERRY BROWN" attached to the top, a wooden stool inside sitting upside-down. Brown's No. 53 jersey was on the sideline during the game - defensive tackle Jason Hatcher held it up after Bailey's kick decided it. It wasn't much of a celebration by an emotionally spent team.

"I don't remember crying

ing on the bench.

"I rarely let my emotions get the best of me," full-back Lawrence Vickers said.

"Today they did, but this was the place to do it." Owner Jerry Jones described his team as grieving when it took the field.

Continued on Page 22

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Manziel is first freshman Heisman Trophy winner



Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel poses with the Heisman Trophy after becoming the first freshman to win the college football award, Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, in New York. (AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel has won the Heisman Trophy for college football's best player, becoming the first player to do so in his first year of college.

Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o finished a distant second and Kansas State quarterback Collin Klein was third in the voting. In a Heisman race with two nontraditional candidates, Manziel broke through as the first freshman to take the award and kept Te'o from becoming the first

purely defensive player to win

Manziel drew 474 first-place votes and 2,029 points from the panel of media members and former winners.

"I have been dreaming about this since I was a kid, running around the backyard pretending I was Doug Flutie, throwing Hail Marys to my dad," he said.

Te'o had 321 first-place votes and 1,706 points and Klein received 60 firsts and 894 points.

Just a few days after turning 20, Manziel proved times have truly changed in college football, and that experience can be really

overrated.

For years, seniors — fourth-year college students — dominated the award. In the 1980s, third-year juniors started becoming common winners.

Tim Tebow became the first sophomore, or second-year student, to win it in 2007, and two more won it in the next two seasons.

Adrian Peterson had come closest as a freshman, finish-

ing second to Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart in 2004. But it took 78 years for a first-year student to take home the big bronze statue.

He's the second player from Texas A&M to win the Heisman, joining John David Crow from 1957, and did so without the slightest hint of preseason hype. Manziel didn't even win the starting

job until two weeks before the season.

With daring dashes and elusive improvisation, Manziel broke 2010 Heisman winner Cam Newton's Southeastern Conference record with 4,600 total yards, led the Aggies to a 10-2 in their first season in the SEC and orchestrated an upset at then-No. 1 Alabama in November that stamped him as a rising star. □

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Big knockout may set up Pacquiao-Marquez again

Continued from Page 18

It will go down among the great fights of their era. But it was barely over when the cry arose for the two ever-so-willing warriors to do it again. When it comes to Pacquiao and Marquez, four fights may not be enough.

"If you give us a chance, we'll fight again," Pacquiao said. "I was just starting to feel confident and then I got careless." Indeed, the case could be made that Pacquiao was on the verge of a big win himself when Marquez landed the punch that sent him falling face first on

the canvas. He had come back from a third round knockdown to drop Marquez in the fifth and was landing big left hands that broke and bloodied the Mexican's nose. After three fights that all went the distance both fighters had vowed to be more aggressive in their



Juan Manuel Marquez, from Mexico, right, knocks out Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, in the sixth round of their WBO world welterweight fight Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Eric Jamison)

fourth meeting. Pacquiao ended up paying the price for it when he tried to close the sixth round with a flurry, a big mistake against a counterpuncher who drew him into his sights. "I knew Manny could knock me out at any time," Marquez said. "I threw the perfect punch." Pacquiao, who hadn't been stopped in a fight since 1999 in Thailand when he was a 112-pounder, took several minutes to come around on the canvas before being led to his ring stool. He blew his nose and stared vacantly ahead as the pro-Marquez crowd of 16,348 screamed in excitement. He was taken to the hospital for a precautionary brain scan, then went to his hotel suite, where he ate with wife Jinkee and his entourage and watched a replay of the fight to see what went wrong. "Spoiler alert," Pacquiao said as the fight played on the TV. "I don't think you are going to like how this

ends." His countrymen in the Philippines certainly didn't. The country came to a standstill as it usually does when its hero fights, and for the second fight in a row they were bitterly disappointed. In the southern region where the boxer and congressman lives, some survivors of a powerful typhoon that killed more than 600 people this week watched on a big TV screen in a gym that serves as an emergency shelter in the town of New Bataan. "People were really dismayed," town spokesman Marlon Esperanza said. "It was like they were hit by another typhoon." What Marquez hit Pacquiao with might have seemed almost as powerful. Pacquiao had dropped Marquez four times in their first three fights, but Marquez had never put him down before he landed a big right hand in the third round for his first knockdown. □



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Messi breaks 40-year record with 86th goal of 2012

JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Lionel Messi broke German great Gerd Mueller's 40-year-old record for most goals in a year by scoring for the 86th time in 2012 on Sunday. The Argentina forward struck twice for Barcelona to lead 2-0 against Real Betis by the 25th minute of the Spanish league match. His first was an individual effort in the 16th minute to equal Mueller's mark, and he eclipsed the 1972 milestone with a familiar left-footed finish nine minutes later.

Messi has scored 74 goals for Barcelona and 12 times for Argentina this year, and he has three more games in which he can add to his tally before the end of the year. Mueller scored 85 for Bayern Munich and West Germany. The 25-year-old Messi passed Brazil great Pele's single-season milestone of 75 goals for Brazil and Santos in 1958 with his 75th and 76th goals of the year on Nov. 11 to move into second place behind Mueller. After his record 50 goals in the Spanish league last campaign, Messi has led Barcelona to the best start in the history of the championship this season with 13 wins and a draw after the opening 14 rounds. The scoring ace has found the net 30 times already this season in all competitions for Barcelona.

Messi, who became a father for the first time on Nov. 2 to a baby boy named Thiago, was announced as one of the three finalists for the FIFA world player of the year award along with teammate Andres Iniesta and Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo.

Messi has won the Ballon d'Or award for the past three years in helping Barcelona



Barcelona's Leo Messi of Argentina, second right, and Betis's Nacho Perez, second left, vie for the ball during their La Liga soccer match at the Benito Villamarin stadium, in Seville, Spain, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012. Messi broke German great Gerd Mueller's 40-year-old record for most goals in a year by scoring for the 86th time in 2012 on Sunday.

(AP Photo/Angel Fernandez)

win three Spanish league titles and two Champions League crowns, along with various other competitions. He is seeking to become the only player to win the award for a fourth time when the winner is announced in Switzerland on Jan. 7.

Nicknamed "The Flea" for

his small stature and uncanny ability to slice through defenses, Messi has shattered several records during the past year.

He scored an unprecedented 73 times in all competitions for Barcelona last season, breaking the previous European club record of 67 goals set by Mueller in

1972-73 and the prior world club mark of 70 established by Archie Stark of Bethlehem Steel in the American Soccer League in 1924-25. Fittingly, Messi scored his 73rd and final goal of the 2011-12 season as Barcelona beat Athletic Bilbao 3-0 in the Copa del Rey final in May to give then-coach Pep Guardiola his 14th title in his final game.

In March, Messi passed Cesar Rodriguez's 57-year-old milestone of 232 goals to become Barcelona all-time leading scorer. He also equaled the record of 14 goals in a single European Cup competition last season, scoring five times in one Champions League match to set yet another mark. □

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Grieving Cowboys beat Bengals 20-19 on FG

Continued from Page 18

It was the second consecutive week that an NFL team was playing a day after losing a teammate. Kansas City beat Carolina 27-21 one day after linebacker Jovan Belcher shot his girlfriend and then himself at the Chiefs' practice complex.

When Bailey's kick ended it, the Cowboys had a lot of thoughts racing through their heads.

"The last 24 hours has really been something I've never experienced," Romo said. "It's something I've never experienced, and I think a lot of guys will tell you that. It's just been a roller coaster of emotions."

"It was a very - and still is - a very difficult thing that this football team is dealing with."

The Cowboys salvaged the game by scoring on their last two drives against the Bengals (7-6), who had won four in a row and had a chance to move into po-

sition for an AFC wild-card berth with a victory.

Romo threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Dez Bryant with 6:35 to go. An-

268 yards with a touch-down, an interception and three sacks. DeMarco Murray converted a third-and-5 play to extend the

portunity to move ahead of Pittsburgh for the second AFC wild card.

"They came here in an emotional situation, and



Dallas Cowboys players hang their heads during a moment of silence honoring teammate Jerry Brown who was killed in an automobile accident prior to an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, in Cincinnati.

(AP Photo/Al Behrman)

thony Spencer's sack of Andy Dalton forced a punt, and Romo completed four passes on the drive to Bailey's winning kick.

Romo finished 25 of 43 for

final drive and ended up with 53 yards on 21 carries. Newcomer Josh Brown kicked field goals of 25, 33, 25 and 52 yards for Cincinnati, which wasted an op-

portunity to move ahead of Pittsburgh for the second AFC wild card. "They came here in an emotional situation, and you knew they were going to fight all the way," Bengals offensive tackle Andrew Whitworth said. "That game meant a lot to them. They played great." □

Jets top Jags, stay in hunt

MARK LONG
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) -- The New York Jets gained ground by staying on the ground.

Shonn Greene and Bilal Powell combined for 155 yards rushing, each scoring on a short run, and the Jets improved their postseason chances with a 17-10 win over the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday.

"Both those guys found holes because there were holes to be found," Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez said. "It was fun to watch." New York's second straight win - third in four games - combined with losses by Pittsburgh and Cincinnati left coach Rex Ryan's team a game out of the No. 6 seed in the AFC playoff picture.

And the Jets (6-7) have a favorable closing stretch that includes games against teams with losing records (Tennessee, San Diego and Buffalo). If they keep playing as they did in the second half against Jacksonville, they should have a chance to win them all.

The Jets were shut out at halftime for the second consecutive week, but they didn't need to change quarterbacks to spark the offense this time around. Instead, they just pounded the Jaguars (2-11) up the middle.

Greene finished with 77 yards rushing. Powell added 78 yards on the ground. Greene scored on a 1-yard plunge in the third quarter, and Powell added a 4-yarder early in the fourth. Powell's score made it 17-3 in a game that looked every bit like one featuring two of the NFL's worst offenses. □

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Brazil steps up investments in technology startups

ANDREW POLLACK

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RIO DE JANEIRO — In the past few years, Brazilian startups have begun to attract blue-chip Silicon Valley venture firms. But in the process, promising technology segments have been ignored.

Although private firms are readily investing in e-commerce and other hot areas, fields like nanotechnology, robotics and information technology — considered critical to transforming Brazil's commodity-export, consumption-dependent economy — are falling by the wayside.

Rather than leave innovation financing solely to private investment firms, Brazilian officials decided several years ago to step in and shepherd nascent companies. And in 2007, Brazil's national development bank, BNDES, started Criatec I, a 10-year venture capital fund of 100 million reais, or about \$48 million, aimed at startups. Foreign venture capital firms have been welcome to make follow-on investments. To date, not one has.

Instead, Brazil has intensified its effort to promote technology growth. This week, the bank awarded a new fund of 186 million reais, or \$89 million, to Icone Investments. BNDES is providing most of the capital, with contributions from regional public banks.

Although the government has been taking the lead, it has not been for a lack of interest from private venture capital. Over the past two years, Redpoint Ventures, Accel Partners and Sequoia have become active here, as have Peter Thiel, Dave McClure and European and Israeli investors.

But BNDES believes a huge void remains in early-stage financing.

"They are voraciously investing in all the paste-

and-copy stuff, the copycats. They are not really into technology innovation," said Robert E. Binder, whose private firm, Antera

Resource Management, co-manages the initial Criatec fund with Sao Paulo-based Inseed Investments. Innovation is an urgent

matter in Brazil, economists say.

According to the Research Institute for Industrial Development, this year through September, the country ran a \$38.7 billion trade deficit in technology-intensive goods, an increase from last year. A looming demographic shift is also a concern. In 2030, Brazil's population is expected to decline and get increasingly older, potentially straining government resources.

Venture capital firms investing in Brazil's startup boom regard Criatec as well-intentioned. Eric Acher, a founding partner at Monashees Capital, called it a "great learning experience to focus on innovation."

Anderson Thees of Redpoint e.ventures also praised the fund.

"They are probably tapping into very good opportunities early," he said. □



Marcio Spata, left, head of the Criatec investment fund at BNDES, Brazil's state controlled development bank, and the bank's director of investment funds, Eduardo Klingelhofer de Sa, at the bank's headquarters in Rio de Janeiro. The bank started Criatec, a \$48 million, 10-year venture capital fund, to help start-up companies grow.

(Andre Vieira/The New York Times)

Europe fines electronics makers nearly \$2B

JAMES KANTER

© 2012 New York Times

BRUSSELS — The conspirators called them "greens meetings," because they took place on golf courses.

Senior managers at some of the world's largest electronics companies often used those meetings, mostly in Asia, to fix the price of picture and display tubes for televisions and computer screens, the top European antitrust regulator said last week.

Joaquin Almunia, the EU competition commissioner, said he would levy fines totaling almost 1.5 billion euros (\$1.96 billion) on seven companies involved in the two cartels, which operated for a decade until 2006. Combined, the fines amount to the largest single penalty for price fixing ever imposed by the commission.

The action follows a spate of similar cases in the glass and display sectors, where bulky cathode ray tubes have

been supplanted by technologies like liquid crystal display and plasma that allow manufacturers to build far more compact monitors and screens.

Almunia imposed the strongest penalties on Philips Electronics of the Netherlands and LG Electronics of South Korea.

Almunia said at a news conference that the cartel activity began in the late 1990s, when the market was still strong for cathode ray tubes, and lasted until 2006 even as that market declined, allowing the conspirators to continue generating strong returns for a technology that was rapidly becoming outmoded.

"The companies were trying to manage through collusion the decline in the market for these kinds of tubes," Almunia said. "The undue profits that the companies derived from the collusion may even have artificially slowed down the transition to the

more modern products like LCD and plasma displays."

On Wednesday, the commission fined Philips the largest amount, 313.4 million euros. LG Electronics was fined 295.6 million euros. Philips and LG also were also part of a joint venture that received an additional fine of 391.9 million euros for which both companies were liable.

In a statement, Philips said it would appeal the fines to the General Court of the European Union, the bloc's second-highest tribunal. Philips described the fine relating to its involvement in the joint venture as "disproportionate and unjustified." Philips said it had divested that business in 2001.

LG did not respond to an email request for comment.

The commission also fined Panasonic 157.5 million euros, Samsung 150.8 million euros, Toshiba 28 million euros and Technicolor 38.6 million euros. □



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Big money bets on a housing rebound

JANET MORRISSEY

© 2012 New York Times

David N. Miller, a master of bailouts, steps to the dais and coolly explains how the financial world went crazy.

It is February 2010. The anger behind Occupy Wall Street is building. Flicking through slides, Miller, a Treasury official working with the department's \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program, lays out what caused the housing bubble: easy credit, shoddy banking, feeble regulation, and on and on. "History has demonstrated that the financial system overall – not every piece of it, but overall – is a force for good, even if it goes off track from time to time," Miller tells a symposium at Columbia University in remarks posted on YouTube. "As we've experienced, sometimes this system breaks down." But, it turns out, sometimes when the system breaks down, there is money to be made. Miller, who arrived at the Treasury after working at Goldman Sachs, de-

scribed himself as a "recovering banker" in the video. Today, he has slipped back through the revolving door between Washington and Wall Street. This time, he has gone the other way, in a new company, Silver Bay Realty, which is about to go public. He is back in the investment game and out to make money with a play that was at the center of the financial crisis: American housing. As the foreclosure crisis grinds on, knowledgeable, cash-rich investors are doing something that still gives many ordinary Americans pause: They are leaping headlong into the housing market. And not just into tricky mortgage investments, collateralized this or securitized that, but actual houses. A flurry of private-equity giants and hedge funds have spent billions of dollars to buy thousands of foreclosed single-family homes. They are acquiring them on the cheap through bank auctions, multiple listing services, short sales and bulk purchases from local inves-

tors in need of cash, with plans to fix up the properties, rent them out and watch their values soar as the industry rebounds. They have raised as much as \$8 billion to invest, according to Jade Rahmani, an analyst at Keefe Bruyette & Woods. The Blackstone Group, the

headed by Los Angeles billionaire Thomas J. Barrack Jr., has bought 4,000. Perhaps no investment company is staking more on this strategy, and asking stock-market investors to do the same, than the one Miller is involved with, Silver Bay Realty Trust of

backed by home mortgages. In January, Two Harbors branched out into buying actual homes and placed them in a unit called Silver Bay. It offered few details at the time, leaving analysts guessing about where it was headed. "They were not very forthcoming," says Merrill Ross, an analyst at Wunderlich Securities. As of Dec. 4, Two Harbors had acquired 2,200 houses. Ross says she couldn't find out how much Two Harbors paid or the rents it was charging. Two Harbors shares, which recently traded at \$11.66, are up about 25 percent in 2012. Lambright recalls how Miller, shuttling between Washington and his home in the New York area, navigated complex questions, like how the government would guarantee many millions of dollars in assets held by Citigroup. "I would find him on conference calls at 3 in the morning, dealing with lawyers, trying to untangle really complicated details," Lambright recalls. □



David Miller, a U.S. Treasury Department official who left his previous job at Goldman Sachs and described himself as a "recovering banker". Miller is in the investment game and out to make money with a play that was at the center of the financial crisis: American housing. (Drew Angerer/The New York Times)

New York private-equity firm run by Stephen A. Schwarzman, has spent more than \$1 billion to buy 6,500 single-family homes so far this year. The Colony Capital Group,

Minnetonka, Minn. Silver Bay is the brainchild of Two Harbors Investment, a publicly traded mortgage real estate investment trust that invests in securities

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Why is Wall Street losing its appetite for Apple?



A woman stands near a poster of an Apple's iPhone 5 at a mobile phone shop in Seoul, South Korea. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—This holiday season is shaping up to be a record-breaking period for Apple as shoppers snap up iPhones and iPads. So, why is the world's most valuable company losing its luster with investors?

Apple began selling the iPhone 5 on Sept. 21, the same day the company's stock hit an all-time peak of \$705.07 per share. Since then, the stock has plunged more than 20 percent, trimming the company's market value by more than \$150 billion. On Friday afternoon, shares were trading at around \$534.

The sell-off has had broad impact. It has reached beyond Apple's own stockholders because the company is the largest component in the Standard & Poor's 500 and Nasdaq composite index — two benchmarks that are tracked by widely held mutual funds and exchange traded funds, or ETFs.

Apple comprises 4 percent of the S&P 500 and nearly 12 percent of the Nasdaq, according to FactSet. The Nasdaq has shed 6 percent since Apple's stock price peaked while the S&P 500

has declined 3 percent, the same as the Dow Jones industrial average, which doesn't include Apple in its basket of 30 stocks.

Apple's abrupt descent is fueling a debate among market-watchers. Is the stock now a bargain, as some would argue? Or, is the recent markdown in Apple's value justified because the company has entered a phase of less innovation and slower revenue growth?

Disagreements over the issue are contributing to unusual volatility in the stock. On Wednesday, Apple's stock fell 6.4 percent, the biggest one-day drop in more than four years. Just two-and-half weeks ago, the stock surged 7.2 percent for its biggest one-day gain in three years.

There's no consensus regarding the cause, but one thing is clear: There have been more investors eager to sell Apple's stock than buy it in recent months, despite all the evidence indicating Apple's products have never been more popular.

The iPhone's early lead in the smartphone market already has been surrendered to the more than 500 million devices running on

the free Android software made by Google Inc. By comparison, as of the end of September, Apple had shipped 271 million iPhones since the gadget's 2007 debut.

Nokia phones running on the recently released Windows 8 system from Microsoft Corp. pose a new threat, especially in China, where Nokia has struck a deal with that country's largest wireless carrier. Meanwhile, struggling Research In Motion Ltd. is pinning its comeback hopes on a revamped operating system for the once iconic BlackBerry to rekindle demand for that device.

Now, there are signs the competition is putting pressure on Apple in the booming tablet computer industry that it launched in 2010 with the release of the iPad. In a report that likely contributed to Wednesday's steep drop in Apple's stock, research firm IDC predicted the iPad's share of the worldwide tablet market this year will decline to 54 percent from 56 percent in 2011. IDC said the iPad will dip below 50 percent by 2016.

Meanwhile, the market share of tablets powered by Android, including Google's Nexus line and Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle Fire, has climbed from 40 percent last year to 43 percent this year, according to IDC.

Windows 8, which is designed to run on tablets, also is expected to chip away at Apple's lead and latch on to 10 percent of the market by 2016, IDC said.

The popularity of smaller tablets with seven-inch screens and retail prices

below \$200 has already forced Apple to make changes. The company responded by introducing the iPad Mini, which features a nearly eight-inch screen. The iPad Mini sells for \$329, which helps Apple protect its profit margins and preserve its reputation for selling top-of-the-line products that merit prices a notch above the competition. Nevertheless, the iPad mini is undoubtedly diverting some sales away from full-sized iPads, which sell at prices ranging from \$399 to \$829. That is one of the reasons BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis expects the iPad's average selling price to fall by about

\$50 in the current quarter, which ends this month. That would be a 9 percent decline from the iPad's average price of \$535 during the July through September period.

Even if it's no longer the market leader, the iPhone remains hotter than ever. Based on figures released by wireless carrier AT&T earlier this week, Jefferies analyst Peter Misek predicts Apple will sell 53 million iPhones this quarter, primarily the newest model. That would be a more than 40 percent increase from Apple's previous one-quarter record of 37 million iPhones set in the period covering last year's holiday shopping season. □

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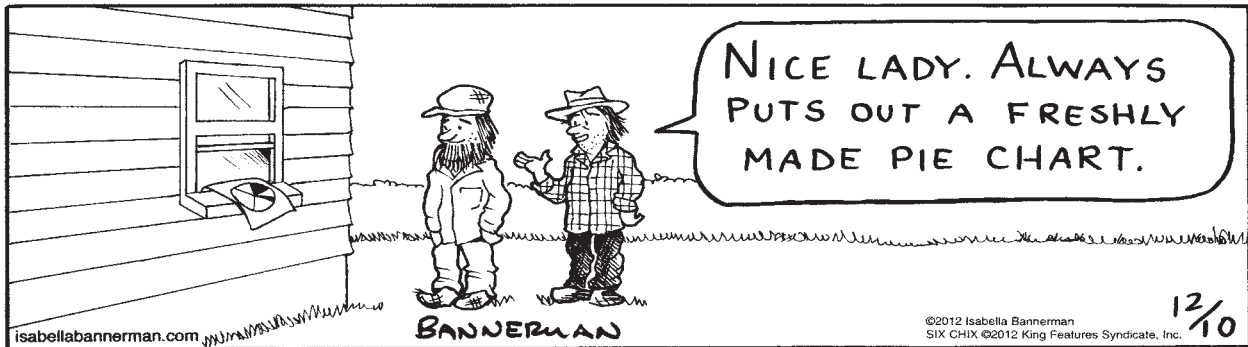
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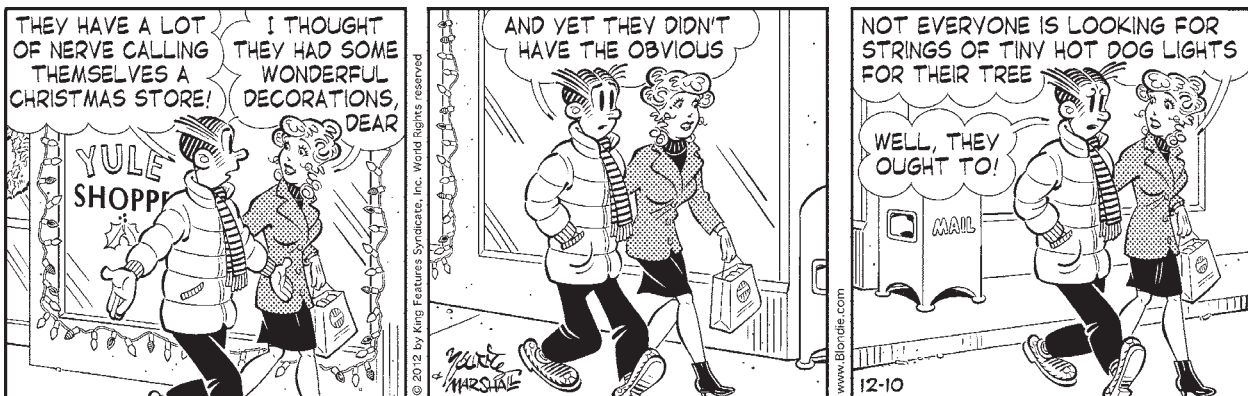
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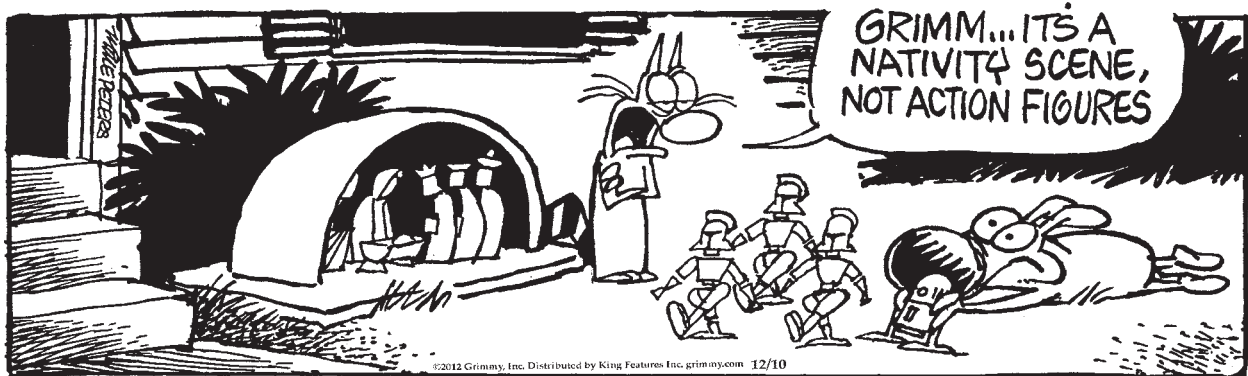
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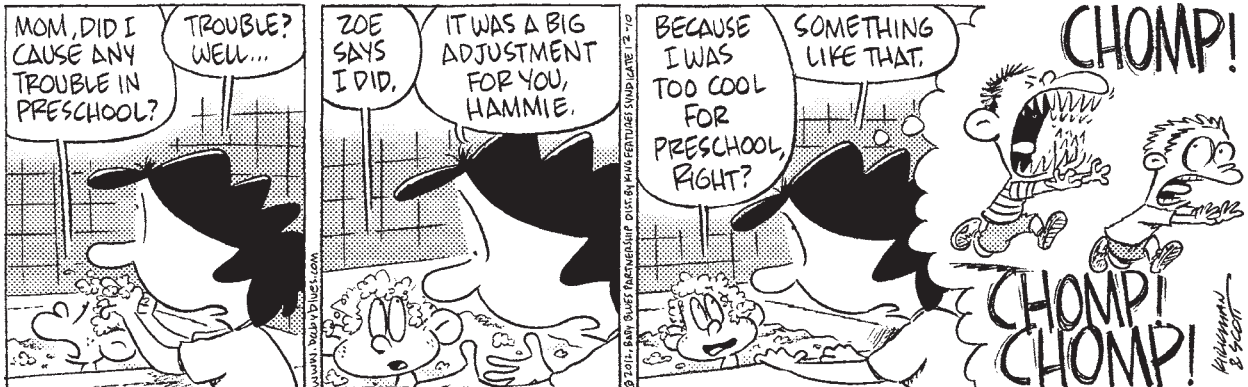
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				2				
	7			9	1		3	
4		1			3	7		8
	5	9		8				
6	3						1	2
				3		9	8	
3		7	4			6		9
	9		6	1			4	
				7				

Difficulty Level ★

12/10

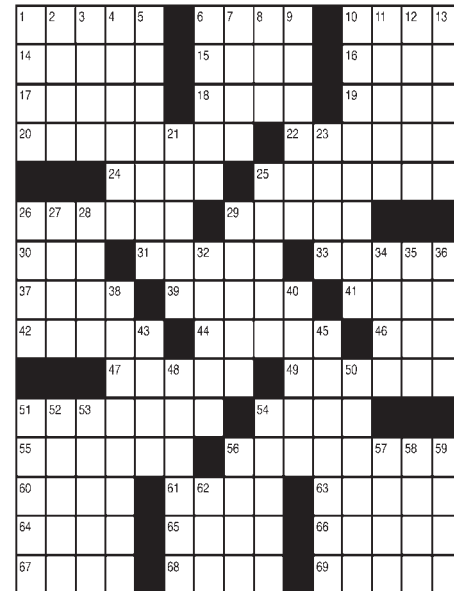
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

9	2	7	5	1	4	6	3	8
6	1	5	8	2	3	4	9	7
8	3	4	6	7	9	5	1	2
4	5	1	3	8	6	7	2	9
3	8	9	7	4	2	1	5	6
7	6	2	1	9	5	3	8	4
1	9	8	4	5	7	2	6	3
5	4	6	2	3	8	9	7	1
2	7	3	9	6	1	8	4	5

ACROSS

- Provide food for a banquet
- Tehran's nation
- One of the Three Bears
- Give one's two cents' worth
- No longer here
- Eras; times
- Actress Burke
- ___ waste to; ravages
- ___ years; 2012, 2016 & others
- Outside
- From that place
- City in Nevada
- Squash
- "It ___ take a rocket scientist"
- Vote into office
- Peculiar
- Winger or Messing
- Poet John ___
- Zero
- Kitchen & bath
- Exchange
- Clutch
- Just right
- Letters before an alias
- Run after
- Attorney
- Dancer Fred ___
- Weathercock
- Few and far between
- Blushed
- Croon
- Alder or ash
- Dodge
- Therefore
- Listen
- Is ___; has left one's bed
- Chimney flue coating
- ___ on to; enlarges
- Incline



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/10/12

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

FUSS	ATILT	ABCS
ISLE	NADIR	SLAP
FEUD	GLOVE	PUMA
ERRATIC	EERIE	EST
TIE	UNSER	
AZTEC	AMS	PICKS
CARD	NAP	SENILE
HIE	NOMINAL	DIE
ERASER	RAT	LEND
SETUP	SEE	LURES
RAVES	SEC	
CHARLIE	CHEETAH	
LOBE	OMAHA	ROSE
AREA	LEGAL	NAIL
MALL	ADEPT	EDAM

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12/10/12

DOWN

- Area ___; phone number start
- Pinnacle
- Lean

- Greek letters
- Late columnist
- Ann ___
- "Queen of Soul"
- Boil ___; plant destroyer
- Pack animals
- VP ___ Agnew
- Latin American ballroom dance
- Swerves
- Peruse
- Space agcy.
- Biblical garden
- Fender bluish
- TV's ___ Skelton

NHL void has networks scrambling

MICHELINE MAYNARD
© 2012 New York Times

DETROIT – Usually at this time of year, hockey fans would plant themselves in front of their televisions and watch players like Sidney Crosby, Alexander Ovechkin and Marian Hossa command the ice.

Instead, they have been reminded that Ken Dryden was tall, Guy Lafleur had a side part, and the boards in arenas once bore only team logos. For more than two months, as the lock-out dragged on, sports channels that usually show NHL games have had to scramble to fill their lineups. Sports network officials say audiences are a fraction of what they would typically expect, although die-hard fans are sticking around for the substitutes.

"It's frustrating," said Greg Hammaren, the senior vice president and general manager of FoxSports Detroit, the television home of the Red Wings.

In Michigan, the average Red Wings game is viewed in more than 100,000 households. Hammaren said about 65,000 of them are in the metropolitan Detroit area, which has earned the nickname Hockeytown.

To fill the vacancies left by canceled games, FoxSports Detroit has shifted telecasts of the Pistons from its high-definition channel to the main FoxSports channel. It is also planning to run more college hockey games, and it is talking with the Red Wings about showing games played by the Grand Rapids Griffins, the American Hockey League team owned by the NHL club.

"People want live hockey again," Hammaren said. FoxSports is leaning on its video library of past Red Wings games and those played by the Detroit Tigers. During the summer, Tigers telecasts are the highest-rated in Major League Baseball, according to FoxSports Detroit, often drawing the most viewers of any program on local TV.

Hammaren said the video archive offered endless possibilities. "If you're an

anti-Yankees fan, an anti-Red Sox fan, we can show those," he said, referring to games in which the Tigers beat them. Of Justin Verlander, the Tigers' pitching ace, Hammaren said, "If you want to see all the Verlander games, I can program a month of those." Another market that is showing classic games is Chicago.

Broadcasts of previous Blackhawks games have generated emails from some grateful fans, said Phil Bedella, the vice president and general manager of Comcast SportsNet Chicago.

"A lot of people send us messages saying: 'Thank you. I've been telling my kids what Bobby Hull was like, what Stan Mikita was like, and now they can see them,'" Bedella said.

But, he added, "I'd like to

be doing classic games as well as Blackhawks games."

The situation is especially frustrating because the hockey audience swelled the last two years, since the Blackhawks won the 2010 Stanley Cup.

Comcast SportsNet Chicago, which reaches Iowa, southern Wisconsin, most of Indiana and nearly all of Illinois, brings in 110,000 households in Chicago for each game and 135,000 overall, according to the network's statistics.

The network plans to show the Hockey City Classic, a four-team college tournament in February at Soldier Field.

But in Chicago, college hockey cannot compete with the Blackhawks, who have official bars across the city, a lively social media effort and extensive fan-related events. □

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KARL RITTER

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Even as international climate talks ended this weekend with no new commitments on carbon emissions or climate aid from the United States, some were relieved America didn't make a weak deal even weaker.

Other countries are now watching to see if the Obama administration will back up post-election comments about climate change with renewed efforts to cut emissions at home, and pave the way for more ambitious targets as work proceeds to adopt a new global climate pact in 2015.

The two-week talks in Doha ended with an extension of the Kyoto Protocol, which was to expire this year, but which now will only cover 15 percent of global emissions since several developed countries, including Japan and Canada, have opted out. The U.S. never ratified the accord.

European Union Climate
Commissioner Connie
Hedegaard said Sunday

that the U.S. negotiators were "careful not to block" the negotiations, adding that it's "still difficult to know whether they will actually invest political capital in committing to a new international deal."

In an emailed comment to The Associated Press, Hedegaard said she hopes

threatening low-lying areas and island nations, and shifting weather patterns with impacts on droughts, floods and the frequency of devastating storms.

Alone among industrialized nations, the U.S. rejected the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the only binding treaty to reduce emissions of carbon



Local and international activists march inside a conference center under a giant statue of a spider to demand urgent action to address climate change at the U.N. climate talks in Doha, Qatar. (AP Photo/Osama Faisal)

Obama "will present not only an enhanced domestic climate policy but also an enhanced U.S. engagement and willingness to commit more in an international climate context."

Both rich and poor countries have long accused the U.S. of hampering the global effort to fight climate change, which scientists say is raising sea levels,

dioxide and other heat-trapping gases. The Bush administration said it would hurt the U.S. economy and that it was unfair because it didn't include emerging economies including China and India.

Hopes for stronger U.S. leadership in the U.N. talks under Obama were dashed when emissions-capping legislation stalled in Congress. But

expectations rose anew this year after Hurricane Sandy pushed climate change back in the domestic political debate.

After his re-election, Obama talked about “the destructive power of a warming planet,” and said he hoped to open a national conversation on the issue.

"I think what we saw from the U.S. in Doha was a mixed performance," said Alden Meyer, of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

He said the U.S. was a "major impediment" in negotiations to ramp up climate aid to help poor countries shift to clean energy and adapt to rising sea levels and other impacts of climate change.

On the other hand, the U.S. acknowledged that it has more work to do at home to meet its voluntary pledge of reducing emissions by 17 percent by 2020, compared to 2005 levels.

"Also, the lead U.S. negotiator, Todd Stern, expressed a newfound willingness to discuss how to equitably share responsibility amongst countries for making the substantial post-2020 emissions reductions needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change," Meyer said. "These were both positive signals in Doha."

Some were relieved that U.S. negotiators didn't block a proposal by small island nations to discuss "loss and damage," which relates to damages from climate-related disasters.

Small island nations under threat from rising sea levels have been pushing for some mechanism to help them cope with such natural catastrophes, but the U.S. had pushed back over concerns it might be held liable for the cleanup bill since it is the world's second-biggest emitter behind China.

The Doha deal doesn't establish that kind of mechanism, but says that countries agree to talk about it.

"It is a significant change in (the U.S.) stance and big unexpected outcome for Doha," said Iain Keith, senior campaigner with activist group Avaaz.

He said overall there was "subtle yet significant shift" in the U.S. position in the talks. "Many parties will be disappointed that the U.S. didn't come here and offer more on finance," he said. "But with the fiscal cliff discussion in Washington, their hands are tied," he added, referring to the looming combination of automatic tax increases and U.S. government spending cuts early next year. □

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'Skyfall,' 'Guardians' have box-office photo finish

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Bond is in a box-office photo finish with Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny over what looks to be the last slow weekend of the holidays.

According to studio estimates Sunday, Sony's Bond tale "Skyfall" took in \$11 million to move back to No. 1 in its fifth weekend.

That put it narrowly ahead of Paramount's "Rise of the Guardians," the animated adventure of Santa, the Easter Bunny and other mythological heroes that pulled in \$10.5 million.

The two movies inched ahead of Summit Entertainment's "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 2," which had been tops for three-straight weekends. The "Twilight" finale earned \$9.2 million, slipping into a tight race for No. 3 with Disney's "Lincoln," which was close behind with \$9.1 mil-

lion.

The top movies were bunched up so closely that rankings could change once final weekend revenues are released Monday.



Daniel Craig as James Bond in the action adventure film, "Skyfall." According to studio estimates Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, "Skyfall" took in \$11 million to move back to No. 1 in its fifth weekend. That puts it narrowly ahead of "Rise of the Guardians," the animated adventure of Santa, the Easter Bunny and other mythological heroes that pulled in \$10.5 million.

(AP Photo/Sony Pictures)

The weekend's only new wide release, Gerard Butler's romantic comedy "Playing for Keeps,"

flopped with \$6 million, coming in at No. 6.

"Skyfall" raised its domestic total to \$261.6 million and added \$20.3 million overseas to bring its internation-

franchise and surpassed "Spider-Man 3" at \$890 million to become Sony's top-grossing hit.

The "Twilight" finale also is a franchise record-breaker, surpassing the \$710 million worldwide haul of last year's "Breaking Dawn — Part 1." The finale's domestic total now stands at \$268.7 million.

It was another traditionally quiet post-Thanksgiving holiday weekend, with big November releases continuing to dominate in the lull before a pre-Christmas onslaught of movies.

The box office is expected to soar next weekend with the arrival of part one of "The Hobbit," Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings" prelude. After that comes a steady rush of action, comedy and drama through year's end, including Tom Cruise's "Jack Reacher," Quentin Tarantino and Jamie Foxx's "Django Unchained," Seth Ro-

gen's "The Guilt Trip" and Hugh Jackman and Russell Crowe's "Les Miserables."

"The last couple of weeks of the year are some of the strongest every year," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "We are on the cusp of some really huge box office. There's a lot of money still left in the year despite this slow period right now." Hollywood's domestic revenues have topped \$10 billion so far this year, with the industry expected to finish 2012 ahead of the all-time high of \$10.6 billion set in 2009.

Trashed savagely by critics, FilmDistrict's "Playing for Keeps" stars Butler as a washed-up soccer star trying to reconnect with his ex-wife (Jessica Biel) and young son. The all-star cast includes Catherine Zeta-Jones and Uma Thurman as soccer moms with the hots for Butler. □

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Rolling Stones rock the Barclays Center in Brooklyn

BEN RATLIFF

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NEW YORK — In a filmed montage of celebrity adoration before the start of the Rolling Stones show on Saturday night at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, Iggy Pop had a good line. He was remembering seeing the band play in the late '60s, and he said, approvingly, that hearing Keith Richards' guitar sound back then felt like being hit with a dead mackerel.

A few times during the concert you kind of knew what he meant. The sound arrived in most of "Midnight Rambler" and parts of "Sympathy for the Devil": dull-toned, loud, heavy, resonant, forceful riffing. It didn't happen during Richards' processions around the stage, which took him halfway into the arena floor. (The stage fit inside a pair of giant open lips, from the band's logo; the rounded runway jutting out of it, encircling part of the audience, represented the tongue.) It happened when he stayed local, when he and Ron Wood, the band's other guitarist, came in close to Charlie Watts' drum set.

What is a Stones show? Musically, now that they're in their 50th year and a long time before now, it doesn't seem to be so much about the performances you're actually hearing in real time. It's an oldies show that can become a flickering re-enactment ritual: momentarily you hear a sound that's both well-worn and alive, with a huge amount of meaning attached to it — it's almost always a guitar riff or a drum fill — and then it's gone, pulled under into a more functional or starchier or sometimes sloppier passage. And visually it's about Mick Jagger's stamina. Saturday's show was the start of the American part of the Stones' "50 and Counting" tour; as long as he was on stage, during the show's two and a quarter hours, he never stopped. In running shoes and stretchy black clothes he bounced on his toes with knees slightly bent and swinging independently of

each other, like a woman in high heels trying to walk in more than one direction. Obsessively he kept the crowd engaged, looking at him, feeding back to him — the sign of an expert skill, and also a need. He thanked the audience, semiformal, a few times. "People always ask us, why do you keep touring?" Jagger said to the audience at one point. "You're the reason we really do this."

This concert improved on the last one I saw in New York, seven years ago. It contained a lot more of what Richards has called "weaving" — two lead guitars circling around and cutting through each other — but kept falling slack. This one felt careful by comparison, in tune and on point. Wood often came through unostentatiously as an anchor, playing the right phrase to pull the song together. The rest of the touring band was as it's been for more than a decade — Darryl Jones on bass,



Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones performs at the Barclays Center in New York, Dec. 8, 2012. Saturday's show was the start of the American part of the Stones' "50 and Counting" tour.

(Chad Batka/The New York Times)



The Rolling Stones perform at the Barclays Center in New York, Dec. 8, 2012. Saturday's show was the start of the American part of the Stones' "50 and Counting" tour.

(Chad Batka/The New York Times)

Chuck Leavell on keyboards, Bobby Keys and Tim Reis on saxophones. (For "You Can't Always Get What You Want," the Choir of Trinity Wall Street sang the introduction.)

It also gained much from two outsiders: Mary J. Blige

singing on "Gimme Shelter," and Gary Clark Jr. playing guitar leads and singing, a little, on a version of the hammering blues "Going Down," written by Don Nix and recorded by Freddie King in 1970. In both cases the band seemed to inhale the energy of the guests and make them charge harder — especially, demonstrably, Jagger, who faced Blige and followed her, inciting her, almost directing her wails. Aside from the full mackerel of "Midnight Rambler," these were the show's best parts. Up close the concert had a sense of purpose. From a distance perhaps less so. The set list, mostly full of the 1968-78 Stones repertory, contained few surprises, outside of "Going Down." There were the

two negligible new songs from "GRRR!," the Stones' 50th anniversary greatest-hits package — "Doom and Gloom" and "One More Shot." (Obviously the tour is an opportunity to move product: never will you see such a lavish assortment of tour T-shirts for one band at one concert.) And there was Lennon and McCartney's "I Wanna Be Your Man," which the band long ago played in a fast jitter, and has now slowed down and shaped into its familiar mid-tempo formula, with the discrepant cross-chopping of guitars and drums. Formulas are inevitable for 50-year old bands, not that there are many of them to prove the point. The trick, which the Stones figured out long ago, is making them imperfect. □

Obamas attend annual holiday concert

STACY A. ANDERSON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An annual holiday concert attended by President Barack Obama and his family includes something non-traditional this year: a performance by South Korean rapper and Internet sensation PSY.

The "Gangnam Style" rapper, born Park Jae-sang, apologized Friday for using what he says was "inflammatory and inappropriate language" during anti-U.S.



South Korean rapper PSY sings the popular "Gangnam Style" song.

(AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

protests at concerts in 2002 and 2004. Obama tradition-

ally attends the "Christmas in Washington" concert of

carols and songs to benefit the Children's National Medical Center. The 31st installment is scheduled for Sunday evening at the National Building Museum, and is to be hosted for a second year by comedian Conan O'Brien.

Other scheduled performers include Diana Ross, Demi Lovato, Scotty McCreery, Chris Mann of "The Voice" fame and "Smash" star Megan Hilty.

The concert is scheduled to air Dec. 21 on TNT. □

The GOP Glasnost



DAVID BROOKS
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Sen. Marco Rubio won the Jack Kemp Foundation's Leadership Award earlier this week. In his speech accepting the award, he sketched out his Republican vision. Some of the policies he mentioned were pretty conventional for someone of his party: limiting regulations, approving the Keystone XL Pipeline. Some were less conventional, at least as the Republican Party has recently defined itself: creating more community health centers, investing in more teacher training, embracing Pell grants. But the speech really began to sing toward the end. Rubio made an oblique rebuttal to some of the Republican gaffes during the campaign: "Some say that our problem is that the American people have changed. That too many people want things from government."

But I am convinced that the overwhelming majority of our people just want what my parents had: a chance." Then he recalled an episode: "I was giving a speech at a fancy hotel in New York City. When I arrived at the banquet hall, I was approached by a group of three uniformed employees from the hotel's catering department. They had seen my speech at the Republican convention, where I told the story of my father the banquet bartender. And they had a gift for me. They presented me with this name tag, which says, 'Rubio, Banquet Bartender.'"

As he was telling this story, Rubio motioned to some of the service staff at the Kemp dinner. They stopped to listen to him.

"It all starts with our people," Rubio continued. "In the kitchens of our hotels. In the landscaping crews that work in our neighborhoods. In the late-night janitorial shifts that clean our offices. There you will find the dreams America was built on. There you will find the promise of tomorrow. Their journey is our nation's destiny. And if they can give their children what our parents gave us, the 21st-century America will be the single greatest nation that man has ever known." People at the dinner say that there was a hushed silence for a second as Rubio concluded

with this refrain. Then a roaring ovation swelled and filled the room.

The Republican Party has a long way to go before it revives itself as a majority party. But that speech signifies a moment in that revival. And I would say the past month has marked a moment.

Over the past month, the Republican Party has changed far more than I expected. First, the people at the ideological extremes of the party have begun to self-ghettoize. The Tea Party movement attracted many people who are drawn to black-and-white certainties and lock-step unity. People like that have a tendency to migrate from mainstream politics, which is inevitably messy and impure, to ever more marginal oases of purity.

Jim DeMint, for example, is leaving the Senate to go the Heritage Foundation. He is leaving the center of the action, where immigration, tax and other reforms will be crafted, for a political advocacy organization known more for ideological purity and fundraising prowess than for creativity, curiosity or intellectual innovation.

Second, politics is being reborn. For a time, Republican candidates like Richard Mourdock of Indiana proudly declared that they didn't believe in compromise.

Political activists spent more time purging deviationists than in trying to attract new converts. But that mania has passed. There are increasing signs that House Republicans are willing to unite behind Speaker John Boehner so he can cut a deal to avert the "fiscal cliff." There has been an epidemic of open-mindedness as Republicans try to win minority votes and create a version of their party that can be competitive in states like Connecticut and California.

Finally, there has even been some shifting of economic values, or at least in how the party presents those values.

The other speaker at the Kemp dinner was Rep. Paul Ryan, who spoke about how to alleviate poverty. He didn't abandon any of his fundamental beliefs, but he framed those beliefs in a more welcoming way and opened up room for growth and new thinking.

The obligations to combat poverty, Ryan said, are beyond dispute. "The real debate is how best we can meet them," he said. "It's whether they are better met by private groups or by government — by voluntary action or by government action. The truth is, there has to be a balance. Government must act for the common good, while leaving private groups free to do the work that only they can do." Like Rubio, Ryan projected a more balanced and attractive vision. He spoke with passion about those who long to rise. □



Gifts That Change Lives



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
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Looking for an unusual holiday gift? How about a \$60 trio of rabbits to a family in Haiti in the name of someone special? Bunnies raise a farming family's income because they, well, reproduce like rabbits — six litters a year! Heifer International arranges the gift on its website (heifer.org).

Or for \$52 you can buy your uncle something more meaningful than a necktie: Send an Afghan girl to school for a year in his name, through the International Rescue Committee (rescue.org).

Yes, it's time for my annual holiday-giving guide. The question I most often get from readers is "What can I do?" This column is an answer. As in past years, I'm highlighting small organizations because you're less likely to know about them.

Shining Hope for Communities (shininghopeforcommunities.org) was started by Kennedy Odede, a slum-dweller in Nairobi, Kenya, who taught himself to read. A visiting American gave him a book on the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and it inspired Odede to organize local residents to fight against social injustice — particularly sexual violence, because his 16-year-old sister had just been raped.

Odede now runs an outstanding girls' school in the heart of the Kibera slum in Nairobi, along

with a clinic, a water and sanitation program, and job training classes. That slum school is one of the most hopeful places I've ever visited. After I wrote about Shining Hope in 2011, Times readers contributed \$180,000, leading to a huge expansion so that Shining Hope (mostly through the clinic) now serves some 36,000 people. Another nearby slum, Mathare, has invited Odede to start a girls' school there if he can find the resources.

Dr. Hawa Abdi (vitalvoices.org/hawafund) runs a hospital, school and refugee camp in war-torn Somalia. She became an obstetrician-gynecologist partly because her mother had died in childbirth, and she has focused on helping rural Somali women.

The land around her 400-bed hospital, outside of Mogadishu, has become an encampment serving up to 90,000 people made homeless by war. Hawa has provided water, health care and education, and when students transfer to Mogadishu they are up to three grades ahead of children there. Hawa also is battling female genital mutilation, and she runs a jail for men who beat their wives.

An extremist Muslim militia with 750 soldiers attacked the hospital two years ago, saying that it was against religion for a woman to run anything substantial. Hawa stood up to the attackers and — because ordinary Somalis sided with her — she was able to force the militia to back down. Then she made the militia write her an apology!

Yet Hawa's hospital and school are struggling financially. Vital Voices, a Washington organization supporting women's rights, has set up a tax-deductible mechanism to keep Hawa's work going.

Polaris Project (polarisproject.org) is a leader in the fight against human trafficking in the

United States. One of its most important projects is a nationwide hotline, with interpreters on standby for 176 languages, for anyone who sees people who may be trafficked. It's 888-373-7888. This year alone, Polaris says, it has helped more than 3,200 victims get services through the hotline.

Polaris, based in Washington, has also been a powerful advocate for tougher laws around the country — those that target pimps rather than just the girls who are their victims.

Polaris says that this year alone it has helped 17 states pass laws on human trafficking. And Polaris has supported nearly 500 trafficking survivors as they start new lives.

Fair Girls (fairgirls.org) is also based in Washington and fights sex trafficking at home and abroad. Its founder, Andrea Powell, braves dangerous streets and disgusting websites for hours in search of girls enslaved in the sex trade, and she is fearless about confronting pimps and prying girls from their grasp.

Earlier this year, I wrote about one of the trafficking survivors Fair Girls has helped: Alissa, the street name of a Boston girl whose cheek is scarred where a pimp gouged her with a potato peeler as a warning not to run away. Alissa ultimately testified against her pimps and sent them to prison. Now, with Powell's mentoring, she is helping other girls escape that life as well.

Fair Girls also trains trafficking survivors to make jewelry, which makes nice gifts and is available on the group's website.

Another possible gift: Tell a university student to apply for my annual win-a-trip contest! I'm hereby announcing the contest for 2013: I'll take a university student, undergraduate or graduate, with me on a reporting trip to Africa next summer. □

Toys for Tots

Christmas
is the season
of sharing and giving.

As has been the custom of Aruba Today and Bon Dia Aruba since 2003, we are again collecting toys, books, clothing for boys and girls, non-perishable food, etc. for Casa Cuna Children's House, Imeldahof and The Food Bank of Aruba.

Let's make this a Merry and Joyful Christmas for everyone on our island, as it's an opportunity for us all to show solidarity and our love to others. You too can be part of this program by bringing your gift to our office located at the Weststraat #22 in Oranjestad.

Financial contributions are also possible.
Help us make this Christmas a very special one for our children and families all in Aruba.
Toys for Tots thanks each and everyone of you for helping us helping others.

THANK YOU!!

*Thank
You*